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REMARKS

This is Preliminary Amendment is in response to an Office Action mailed on September 12, 2001 with a three-response date of December 12, 2001.

In the Office Action dated September 12, 2001, the Examiner rejected claims 97-121 under 35 USC 101 claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-25 of prior US Patent No. 6,181,395 B1. The Applicants have cancelled claims 97-121 and respectfully submit new claims 122 through 143.

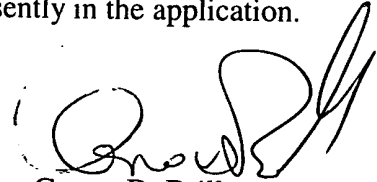
The Applicants believe that no extension fees are due in the 09/066,403 case, but if the Examiner determines that extension fees are due, please charge them to Deposit Account 501648.

The Applicants are attaching a set of claims now in the case as required under 37 CFR 1.121.

The Applicant wants to thank the Examiner for his review of the application and respectfully request an early allowance of the claims presently in the application.

December 12, 2001

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